

PRESS RELEASE

Trevor Sutton: SMALL WORLD

26 August – 27 September 2021

Private View: Thursday 26 August 2021 2 – 5 pm

Zoom Online launch: Thursday 26 August 2020 5.30 pm



Illustrated: **Left: Trevor Sutton** b.1948, *Voewood 5/3*, 2020, oil on paper on 12 mm white Corian, 10 x 20 cm, 4 x 8 in, **Right: Trevor Sutton** b.1948, *Study for Nyons*, 2019 oil on board 23 x 61 cm (diptych), 9 x 24 in

Zuleika Gallery is delighted to present in its Woodstock Gallery *Trevor Sutton: SMALL WORLD*.

SMALL WORLD is an exhibition of two halves, work made before and work made after the prism of Covid. The work in the exhibition from pre-COVID times, was made in response to two different trips, to the Midi Pyrenees in 2018 for a month-long residency, and to Orkney in 2019 for a walking vacation. On both trips, Sutton took many contextual photographs, particularly of buildings, often in rural locations. In Orkney, his work was informed by the Neolithic and Iron Age sites and coastal geology. Strong lintel-like horizontals inform these earlier works, and the colours recall the local paintwork such as in *Study for Nyons* (illustrated above).

In March 2020 Trevor Sutton left his home and studio in London and drove with his wife, Carol Robertson (also an artist) to Norfolk. Sutton and his wife moved into the workspace of artist Roger Ackling who had been his closest friend before he died tragically in 2014 from Motor Neuron Disease. Sutton comments *“Roger and I had shared a house together in London before he and his wife Sylvia moved to Norfolk. We had taught together at Chelsea College of Art. Sylvia invited us for as long as we wanted to stay and his workspace was to serve as both our studio and bedroom. Our time was now spent isolating in a beautiful 1890s Art & Crafts house and large garden with its own orchard, wood and flower garden. As well as walking and working most days in the garden we spent months creating a large vegetable garden that needed constant tending. In between times I made my own work. I worked solely with small pieces of oil-painted paper or with watercolour, on a long work table by windows looking out onto a raked gravel courtyard. I started assembling collages in to distinctly shaped sets. Everything I made was on a small and intimate scale which I became aware, was as much related to Roger’s work as it was to the confines of my workspace. Roger made small hand-held wood pieces, focussing the sun’s rays through a magnifying glass and burning horizontal linear patterns onto either found wood or simple utility-based wooden objects. His spirit pervaded.”*

Sutton found himself constructing and painting in response to place and circumstance: with colour referencing the outside, to nature and landscape, and to the colour and light of the changing seasons. As with the Midi-Pyrenees and Orkney works, the shapes and formats derived from the architecture both inside and out, and consequently Sutton started making triangles and trapezoids. Sutton comments *"Surprisingly, it was to be an extremely creative period. The combination of garden work and walking with studio time seemed to strike a perfect balance. In hindsight, it was a very happy period."*

The exhibition title, SMALL WORLD, derives principally from the Norfolk collages, but also from the overwhelming feeling of no longer being free to travel abroad and from a sense of shrinking perspective, kept from seeing friends and from shared cultural activity. *"A handful of people and places became my whole world in these exceptional times."* Trevor Sutton.

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About Trevor Sutton

Trevor Sutton lives and works in London. He went to art school in the 1960's, graduating with a post-graduate diploma in 1972. He has from the outset, remained a non-figurative painter and printmaker. In addition to working in London he has taken up many residencies and fellowships abroad, most recently in France and Ireland. His work is exhibited worldwide but his strongest links outside the UK are with Japan, Austria, Denmark, and The Netherlands. Sutton's work is in many corporate and public collections including: Aberdeen Art Gallery, Scotland, Arts Council of Great Britain, London, British Council, London. Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio, USA, Contemporary Art Society, London, Deutsche Bank AG, London, Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge, Goldman Sachs International, London Government Art Collection, London, Kasser Foundation, Montclair, New Jersey, USA NSA Collection, Hiroshima, Japan, Merrill Lynch, London, Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, Tate, London, Unilver, and Victoria Art Gallery, Bath.

About Zuleika Gallery

Zuleika Gallery was founded in Oxford in 2015 by Lizzie Collins and focuses on Contemporary and Modern British Art. Artists represented by the gallery include Trevor Sutton, Manijeh Yadegar, Andy Barker, Rachel Gracey, Claudia Clare and Frances Aviva Blane. Lizzie Collins is History of Art graduate of UCL, and a postgraduate of the Courtauld Institute in London. Lizzie was a director and auctioneer at Bonhams, and a specialist at Christie's in 20th Century British Art, before founding Zuleika Gallery. In August 2020 Zuleika Gallery opened a permanent space, a two-room gallery in a listed building in Woodstock, Oxfordshire, a short walk from the town entrance to Blenheim Palace. Zuleika Gallery has curated the art programme for the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford since 2017 and since May 2021, the gallery is curating two new public spaces at Blenheim Palace, Woodstock in the Stables Café and Palace State Rooms.

For further information and images please contact info@zuleikagallery.com or visit www.zuleikagallery.com

Opening times

Woodstock: Mondays, Wednesday - Saturday 10 am - 5 pm (Closed Tuesday & Sunday)

London: By Appointment.

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